# Pacific Packet Radio Society

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 8

# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1985


The next regular meeting of Pacific Packet Radio Society is to be held on Tuesday, August 6, 1985, at 7:30 PM at the AMPEX Employees Cafeteria on Broadway in Redwood City, California. Driving southbound on Highway 101, take the Woodside Road Exit and turn left on Broadway which is the first intersection after leaving the freeway. Follow Broadway south for approximately one mile where you will see the AMPEX Cafeteria located next to a fountain-and-pool area on your right. There is ample parking on both sides of Broadway in the vicinity of the AMPEX Cafeteria.

A presentation and timely discussion of Packet Radio as utilized during the recent Lexington Dam area fire will be given by Ken Chong, WB6MLC, who participated as a volunteer communicator during the emergency. This event was the first full scale emergency test of Packet Radio in the region and enabled Forestry personnel to employ amateurs in vital statewide communications.

Dan Albertson, KA6RCZ, has contributed an interesting article aimed at the general amateur community. His comments are applicable to us in Packet and Dan was also active as a Packet Radio Operator during the fire. He suggests that Packet stations comply with the F.C.C. Rules on station identification by transmitting a one-line beacon text every 10 minutes stating the location and amateur callsign of that particular packet station. Good idea, Dan, and thanks very much for your article. Remember, you saw it first in the NEWSLETTER.

--- Rich Collins, NT6V -Editor

**The PPRS board, at its June 20th meeting, accepted the resignation of Don Simon, NI6A from the post of PPRS frequency coordinator.**

**Don has been the coordinator for the PPRS for the last year and has accomplished a great deal in that time. He was instrumental in the early coordination of most of the present digipeaters in Northern California as far south as Santa Barbara. Additionally, he secured several NARC (Northern California Relay Council) sanctions for PPRS affiliated digipeaters.**

**In a related action, George Flammer, WB6RAL, was unanimously elected by the Board to replace Don as PPRS frequency coordinator. George is a PPRS board member, and NARC member and is quite active in digipeaters and networking.**

**In an effort to ease the congestion and help plan for a smooth flowing Westnet, your PPRS is working with the Northern California Relay Council to prevent problems before they occur. If you have any plans to put up a digipeater or are interested in longer range planning, please contact the PPRS frequency coordinator. Your inputs on the state of the network and the directions it could take are very actively solicited. Thank you.**

DIGIPEATER SANCTIONING GUIDELINES:

o) Frequencies proposed shall be per NARC/PPRS sanction (eg.: 145.01, .03, .05, .07, .09; 146.58, 220.950, 223.56, 223.58, 223.60, 441.50MHz ).

o) Projected area of coverage shall lie within the NARC territorial jurisdiction. Coverage outside of NARC jurisdiction shall be noted in the application.

o) Modulation and modulation products must meet FCC criteria for the band and mode of operation planned.

o) Sanction Request must supply (as a minimum):

a) projected area of coverage
b) height above sea level
c) ERP (watts) / polarization
d) call of digipeater(s)
e) sponsoring organization or individual
f) Single point of contect for digipeater(s)
g) location name
h) complete list of sanctioned machines proposed digipeater(s) will link to
i) existing co-located digipeaters
j) all interconnection hardware protocols
k) all interconnection software protocols

Process of PPRS Sanctioning:

Before Application:

NCA shall supply upon request sufficient frequency and site data to allow submittal of application.

NCA shall perform preliminary discussions with affected parties with the goal of expediting decisions regarding the proposed application.

After Submittal:

NCA shall obtain verbal or written concurrance of affected parties; all disenting views shall be heard.

NCA shall deliver a summary of the actions taken regarding the application to the Board of the PPRS for final action; this summary shall be submitted no later than 60 days from receipt of Application.

After Decision:

If Sanction is approved, the Applicant, together with the PPRS Board and NARC governing body, shall be issued the approved Conditions of Sanction.

NCA shall monitor operation of Sanctioned digipeater to insure continued observation of the Conditions of Sanction.

Grounds for Withdrawl of Sanction:

If, in the opinion of the Board, there has been a willful and continued violation of the Conditions of Sanction as issued by the Board the Board may, at its option, issue a formal Withdrawl of Sanction. The Withdrawl is effective 30 days after issuing if and only if all conditions of Sanction are not again met by the end of the 30 day period.

Recourse for Appeal of Withdrwal:

Within the 30 day period after the issuing of the Notice of Withdrawl of Sanction, a representative of the sponsoring organization or individual may contact the NCA or the PPRS Board and offer justification.

In such a case, the decision of the PPRS Board shall be considered final.

## EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, DO I USE MY CALL SIGN ?

by Dan Albertson, KA6RCZ

Do I have to give my call sign if I am providing emergency communications ? This is a question many hams found themselves asking that worked on the Lexington Reservoir fire in Los Gatos during July. Many thanks are due to the Amateurs who put in their time at the fire. The agencies who were assisted by hams were very thankful for the services provided.

Anyone who listened on the repeaters that handled the fire traffic probably noticed the use of "tactical call signs". These call signs such as "CDF Morgan Hill" or "Vasona Com" identified the location of the operator. Some tactical call signs also identified the type and purpose of the unit such as "Drew's Shadow". This operator followed a California Division of Forestry Public Information Officer named Drew and provided on the spot communications when needed.

You may have noticed some operators using their tactical call sign in addition to their FCC call sign. Some even used their tactical call sign INSTEAD of their FCC call sign. You might have even heard some of the net control stations instruct units NOT to use their FCC call sign ! This has become the subject of debate on some local repeaters.

To settle the argument I called Phil Kane, an Engineer at the FCC District Office in San Francisco, CA. I asked about the fact that many Amateurs think that during emergency communications they don't have to give their FCC call sign, and only tactical call signs need be used. He explained that at one time there were Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service(RACES) Licenses issued to Civil Defense Agencies. At that time RACES members used the RACES call sign followed by a unit number designation instead of their Amateur call sign. Those licenses are no longer issued and the ones that were issued have expired.

I asked Engineer Kane "If there are no longer any RACES Licenses under what authority does a Civil Defense Agency establish a RACES organization ?" His answer, "Any Civil Defense Agency that has a RACES organization in place with a plan can activate RACES. At that point the amateurs are under the control of the Civil Defense Agency and subject to their direction." He reminded me that RACES activation no longer exempts the operator from use of his or her Amateur Radio Call Sign.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service(ARES), Red Cross and California Division of Forestry Volunteer programs that use Amateurs as volunteers are not considered to be RACES organizations. The rules regarding RACES communications are in Part 97, Sub Part F.

I spoke with Dave Tyler, N6DRT, E.C.A.C. Pacific Division. He said that when he asked the FCC about call sign use during a RACES exercise the FCC said the stations should identify at the end of each exchange. This means that tactical call signs are permitted but they are IN ADDITION to your regular FCC call sign. The regular requirements that you ID at least every 10 minutes or at the end of each exchange or both are still in effect. In other words you don't have to ID at the end of each transmission rather at the end of each exchange of traffic or completion of a conversation with another station.

If we look at Part 97 Sub Part F, we'll find it says Amateur Radio Communications must be conducted in accordance with the regular rules and regulations governing that use unless superseded by Subpart F. According to Phil Kane at FCC the newest Subpart F does not provide for use of any call signs in lieu of your regular Amateur Radio Station Call Sign.

Do you have to use your Amateur Radio Call Sign when providing emergency communications ?

You bet you do !

Command: HELP NTS
This mailbox is part of the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS).
The three specific NTS nets supported by this mailbox are:
"NCN" - Northern California Net (including Nevada)
"SCN" - Southern California Net
"RN6" - Sixth Region Net (for all traffic other than CA & NV)
For detailed coverage and other information about these three nets,
enter the commands "HELP NCN", "HELP SCN", or "HELP RN6".

You may originate traffic for one of these nets by using the SEND command
to enter a message in standard ARRL radiogram format:

```
Command: SEND SCN 1 Pasadena              <- subject = msgcount + destination
Enter text, end with "***end" on a line by itself:
NR 123 R HXE W6IXU 15 ARROYO GRANDE CA 1234Z JUL 4  <- std radiogram preamble
MR MRS ALFRED NEWMAN
1234 SHADY LANE                           <- address + phone + BT
PASADENA CA 90123
213 456 7890 BT
THIS IS A TEST MESSAGE                    <- text + BT (5 words per line)
SENT VIA PACKET RADIO X                      (word count = check in heading)
WHAT DO YOU THINK QUERY BT
MIKE W6IXU AR                             <- signature + AR
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The Northern California Net is an NTS section net covering northern California and all of Nevada. NCN covers all counties of California except for the 10 southern counties covered by SCN (Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura). All traffic destined for northern California or Nevada should be sent using the command "SEND NCN" followed by the message count and destination city (also include county if city is obscure). For example:

```
SEND NCN 1 Oakland
SEND NCN 1 Fresno
SEND NCN 3 San Francisco
```

NCN traffic will be picked up from this mailbox daily by assigned liaison stations, and delivered via the following NCN nets:

| Net | Time | Frequency | Manager | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NCN/1 | 7:00 PM | 3630 KHz | N6AWH | High-speed CW |
| NCN/V | 7:30 PM | 145.490 MHz (-600) | W6VOM | FM greater bay area |
| NCN/2 | 8:30 PM | 3630 KHz | WB6UZX | Slow-speed CW |
| SVTN | | 146.640 MHz (-600) | | FM Sacramento valley area |

The Sixth Region Net (RN6) is an NTS region net. All traffic destined for addresses outside of California and Nevada (including all APO/FPO addresses) should be sent using the command "SEND RN6" followed by the message count and destination area, state, or country. For example:

```
SEND RN6 1 Florida
SEND RN6 4 EAN
SEND RN6 1 FPO San Francisco
SEND RN6 1 Israel
SEND RN6 2 Korea (via MARS)
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RN6 traffic will be picked up from this mailbox daily by assigned liaison stations, and delivered via the following RN6 nets:

| Net | Time | Frequency | Manager | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DRN6/1 | 9:45 AM | 7275 KHz | K6UYK | SSB and occasional CW |
| DRN6/3 | 3:30 PM | 7275 KHz | K6UYK | SSB and occasional CW |
| RN6/1 | 7:45 PM | 3655 KHz | W6INH | High-speed CW |
| RN6/2 | 9:30 PM | 3655 KHz | W6INH | High-speed CW |

Command: HELP SCN
The Southern California Net is an NTS section net covering the 10 southern-most counties of California: Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. All traffic destined for these counties should be sent using the command "SEND SCN" followed by the message count and destination city (also include county if city is obscure). For example:

SEND SCN 1 Anaheim
SEND SCN 1 La Mesa (San Diego county)
SEND SCN 3 Los Angeles

SCN traffic will be picked up from this mailbox daily by assigned liaison stations, and delivered via the following SCN nets:

| Net | Time | Frequency | Manager | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCN/1 | 7:00 PM | 3598 KHz | WF6O | High-speed CW |
| NCTN | 8:00 PM | 146.730 MHz (-600) | | FM San Diego section |
| SCN/2 | 8:15 PM | 3598 KHz | WF6O | Slow-speed CW |
| SCN/V | 9:00 PM | 147.645 MHz (-600) | WA6QCA | FM Los Angeles section |
| SCN/SB | 9:00 PM | 145.180 MHz (-600) | N6FOU | FM Santa Barbara section |

If you are willing to act as a liaison station, please send a message to Don NI6A via this mailbox.

Mailbox commands: List, Read, Send, Directory, Call, Usage, Quit, Help

*** Subject: LOW COST TNC PARTS
**********

For those interested in building a TAPR clone TNC-1 cheap and are willing to scrounge non critical parts (resistors, capacitors, garden variety IC's, etc), I have come across a source of hard to get parts.

The parts are:

1. A bare printed circuit board (nearly a TNC-1 clone). Glass epoxy two sided, solder masked and silk screened with component locations on it.

2. A 200+ page systems manual describing theory of operation, parts procurement, assembly, setup, operation, troubleshooting, and much more. Most of the material is the same as was included in the TAPR TNC-1 systems manual.

3. Full set of 2764 eproms, fully preprogrammed with the latest available TNC software.

4. HDLC chip (WD1935).

5. NOVRAM (52212).

6. High Power VFET (VN10KM).

These were assembled by a fellow ham who wanted to get on packet as cheaply as possible.

If you would like more info, leave me a message on this mailbox

-73-
Jerry KA6UVG
Ventura by the sea

J2

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